

CLAIM AMENDMENTS AND STATUS

1. (currently amended) A videophone system comprising: a plurality of videophones; ~~at least one~~ communications network interconnecting said videophones and having sufficient bandwidth for ~~and~~ configured for transmitting both video and audio communications in real ~~time~~interconnecting said videophones; means for uniquely identifying each of said videophones ~~and its location on said communication network;~~ at least one operations center connected ~~with to~~ said communications network and having means for storing information related to ~~the users of~~ said videophones, including the unique identity of each of said videophones connected to said communications network and its location on said network, said operations center being configured to communicate with said videophones via said communications network; means for entering information into a first of said videophones corresponding to the unique identification of a second of said videophones and means for using such entered information and such information as is stored at the operations center to establish direct transmission of audio and video communications between said first and second videophones over said communications network.

2. (currently amended) The videophone system of claim 1 further comprising at least one communications medium interconnecting said videophones and having sufficient bandwidth for ~~and~~ configured for transmitting both video and audio communications at frame rates affording substantially real time communications, connecting each of said videophones to ~~a~~said communications network,

3. (currently amended) The videophone system of claim 1 wherein said operations center comprises means for storing a user registry including video information related to said ~~users~~videophones connected to said communications network, and wherein such video information can be selectively accessed by said videophones connected to said communications network and used ~~by said users~~ to initiate a videophone call.

4. (currently amended) The videophone system of claim 1 wherein said operations center comprises means for storing a ~~user~~videophone registry including phone directory information related to said ~~users~~videophones connected to said communications network; wherein said means for uniquely identifying each of said videophones comprises assigning a unique number to each of said videophones corresponding to the current standard telephone number of the users of said videophones; wherein said address of each of said videophone on the communications network is the unique IP address of such videophone and wherein such information can be selectively accessed by said videophones connected to said communications network and used ~~by said users~~ to initiate a videophone call.

5. (currently amended) The videophone system of claim 1 wherein said operations center comprises means for storing a ~~user~~videophone registry including provisioning information related to said ~~users~~videophones connected to said communications network and wherein such information can be selectively accessed by said videophones connected to said communications network and used to initiate a videophone call.

6. (currently amended) The videophone system of claim 1 wherein said operations center further comprises at least one server for processing one or more of the following applications: (i) processing SIP protocols for communicating with other videophone systems and the components thereof, (ii) enabling traditional telephone applications such as, ~~but not limited to~~, caller id, (iii) call messaging (iv) instant messaging, (v) selectably retrieving and displaying to the user supplemental information such as, ~~but not limited to~~ telephone directory information, or (vi) interconnecting with the PSTN communications network.

7. (original) The videophone system of claim 2 wherein said communications network comprises a CATV network, and wherein each of said videophones is connected to a cable modem as a component of said communications medium.

8. (original) The videophone system of claim 1 wherein said communications network comprises an xDSL network, and wherein each of said videophones is connected to an xDSL modem as a component of said communications medium.

9. (original) The videophone system of claim 2 wherein said videophone further comprises a videophone interface unit, and wherein said videophone interface unit is remotely located from said videophone and proximate to said communications medium, and said videophone is wirelessly connect to said videophone interface unit and said videophone interface unit is connected via cable means to said communications medium.

10. (original) The videophone system of claim 2 wherein said videophone further comprises a videophone interface unit, and wherein said videophone interface unit is remotely located from said videophone and proximate to said communications medium, and said videophone is connected via cable means to said videophone interface unit, and said videophone interface unit is connected via cable means to said communications medium.

11. (original) The videophone system of claim 2 wherein said videophone further comprises a videophone interface unit, and wherein said videophone interface unit is a component of said videophone and, and said videophone is connected to said communications medium.

12. (~~original~~currently amended) A method for providing a videophone communication system comprising: connecting a plurality of videophones to one or more communications media having sufficient bandwidth for and configured for transmitting both video and audio communications in real time; connecting said communications media to a common communications network having sufficient bandwidth for and configured for transmitting both video and audio communications in real time; uniquely identifying each of the videophones connected to the communication network and the address of said videophone on said communication network; ~~storing~~ storing information related to each of the ~~users of the~~ videophones at one or more operations centers configured to communicate with the videophones over the communications network and the communications media, such information including, without limitation, the unique identity of each videophone and its address on the communication network; selectably accessing with a first videophone the stored information at the operations centers that is necessary to complete a videophone call to a second videophone; ~~and~~ connecting the calling party to the party to be

called through the communications network and the communications media of the calling and the called party and establishing direct transmission of audio and video communications between the videophones of the calling and called parties over the communications network.

13. (currently amended) A method for providing a videophone communication system as claimed in claim 12 further comprising: selectably obtaining the images and sounds of the calling party; digitizing and synchronizing the obtained images and sounds of the calling party; ~~uniquely identifying the party to be called with respect to the stored information relating to the users of the videophones;~~ selectably obtaining the images and sounds of the called party; digitizing and synchronizing the obtained images and sounds of the called party; selectably ~~transmitteding the obtained digitized~~ images and sounds of the calling party to the called party over the communications media and communications network; ~~and selectably transmitteding the obtained digitized~~ images and sounds of the called party to the calling party over the communications media and communications network.

14. (currently amended) A method for providing a videophone communication system as claimed in claim 12, further comprising capturing ~~wherein~~ the images and sound of at least one of the parties to the call ~~is captured by~~ with a camera and microphone contained within ~~a~~ that party's videophone ~~device serving as an end user terminal for the videophone communications system.~~

15. (currently amended) A method for providing a videophone communication system as claimed in claim 12, ~~wherein~~ further comprising storing at least a portion of the continuous captured images and sound of at least one of the parties to the call ~~are is retrieved from~~ in

memory means which are ~~included as part~~associated with that party's of the videophone and
using such stored portion for either video messaging or call initiation~~communications system.~~

16. (currently amended) A method for providing a videophone communication system as claimed in claim 12 further comprising: connecting a plurality of PSTN phones to one or more communications media and a second communications network configured for transmitting audio
~~communications~~conventional PSTN audio communications; selectively bridging the
communication media connected to the PSTN phones with the communications media connected
to the videophones; ~~uniquely identifying the party to be called~~ initiating a call from a first
videophone, determining from the stored information whether the party to be called ~~is capable of~~
~~receiving a videophone call~~has a videophone or a PSTN phone, and if the party to be called does
not have a ~~is not capable of receiving a videophone call,~~ connecting the calling party to the party
to be called through the ~~communications network and the communications media configured for~~
~~transmitting video and audio communications of the calling party and the PSTN~~ communications
network ~~and the communications media configured for transmitting only the audio~~
~~communications of the calling party of the called party~~ and transmitting only the audio
communications of the calling and the called parties.

17. (withdrawn) A videophone system including a plurality of videophones, wherein at least one videophone is connected to a videophone interface unit comprising: an adapter connected to, and configured for affording communication with said videophone over a PSTN network; an adapter connected to, and configured for affording communication with said videophone over a

broadband network, and processor means for selectably linking said videophone to said PSTN network adapter or to said broadband network adapter, wherein the videophone can selectably receive and make calls on the PSTN network as well as on the broadband network.

18. (withdrawn) The videophone system of claim 17 wherein said videophone system includes at least one PSTN telephone which is connected to a PSTN network and to the videophone interface unit, and wherein said videophone interface unit includes means for both the PSTN telephone and the videophone alerting users when there is an incoming call on either the PSTN network or the broadband network.

19. (withdrawn) The video system of claim 18 wherein said videophone interface unit includes means for isolating said PSTN telephone from the PSTN network.

20. (withdrawn) The videophone system of claim 18 further comprising means for using the same telephone number for said videophone and said PSTN telephone.

21. (withdrawn) The videophone system of claim 17 wherein the videophone interface unit includes means for causing an incoming call on the broadband network to have a different alert on the videophone than an incoming call on the PSTN network, so as to allow the users to distinguish the network on which the incoming call is being made.

22. (withdrawn) The videophone system of claim 17 wherein said videophone interface unit includes means for selectably routing an audio and video call made on the videophone on the

broadband network, and an audio only call made on the videophone on the PSTN network.

23. (withdrawn) The videophone system of claim 17 wherein said videophone interface unit includes means for selectably routing an audio and video call made on the videophone on the broadband network, and an audio only call made on the videophone on the broadband network as a VoIP call.

24. (withdrawn) The videophone system of claim 17 further comprising: an operations center connected to said broadband network and having means for storing information related to the users of said videophones, said operations center being configured to communicate with said videophones via said broadband network, and wherein said operations center includes means for determining information indicating whether both the calling and the called party have a videophone, and means for communicating such information to said videophone interface unit, wherein said videophone interface unit can selectably route a call made on the videophone on either said broadband network or said PSTN network, and wherein said videophone interface unit uses such information to selectably route a call made on the videophone to a party having a videophone, over the broadband network

25. (withdrawn) A method for providing a videophone system including at least one videophone, said method comprising: selectably connecting and configuring the videophone for communication with a PSTN network selectably connecting and configuring the videophone for communication with a broadband network determining which network to use for a party to be called based upon the capability of that party to receive calls on each of the available networks,

and determining which network to use for receiving a call based upon the network used by the party placing the call.

26. (currently amended) A personal videophone including a camera, display, telephone keypad, speaker, microphone, all of which are operatively connected, and further comprising: means for uniquely identifying said videophone, means for connecting said videophone to a communications network having sufficient bandwidth for and configured for transmitting and receiving both video and audio communications in real time, means for sending a storable indicator on the communication network which indicator includes the unique identifying information for the videophone and that it is capable of making videophone calls, means for digitizing the signals received by said camera, for selectably transmitting such camera signals over said communication network in real time, and for selectably displaying the image represented thereby on said display screen, means for digitizing the signals received by said microphone and for selectably transmitting such microphone signals over said communication network in real time and in a manner that they are synchronized with said camera signals, means for receiving digital signals which have been transmitted over said communications network in real time, representing the images and sound transmitted to the videophone, and for selectably displaying the signals representing the images on said display screen and for playing the signals representing the sound on said speaker as synchronized, means for placing a videophone call using information entered or selected by a user and the storable indicator sent by second said videophone, ~~and means for uniquely identifying said videophone with respect to any other systems or devices connected to said communications network.~~

27.(original) A videophone as claimed in claim 26 wherein said camera is high resolution, and further comprising a wide-angle lens, and image processing means for affording zoom, pan and tilt functionality by selecting various zones and magnifications within the resultant image from said camera.

28. (original) A videophone as claimed in claim 26 further comprising illumination means for providing supplemental light for the camera.

29. (original) A videophone as claimed in claim 28 wherein said illumination means includes spectrum outside of that normally visible with the human eye, and wherein said camera is sensitive to said non-visible spectrum used for the illumination means.

30. (original) A videophone as claimed in claim 26 wherein said means for connecting to a communications network comprises a videophone interface unit connected to a communications medium, which communications medium is connected to the communications network, and wherein the connection between the videophone and the videophone interface unit is wireless.

31. (currently amended) A videophone as claimed in claim 26 further comprising: memory means for storing information related to the operation of the videophone, wherein such information includes one or more of the following: ~~call logs~~, current time, current date, ~~non-~~directory-related profile information about the users of the videophone, ~~non-directory~~related profile information about the users of other phones to be called with the videophone, and information control means for navigating, selecting, inputting, outputting and editing said

information.

32. (original) A videophone as claimed in claim 31 wherein said memory means includes a component located within the videophone and a component located remotely from the videophone, and where the component located remotely from the videophone provides backup and overflow storage for the component located within the videophone.

33. (original) A videophone as claimed in claim 31, wherein said information about the users includes selectably stored video images of one or more of the users.

34. (currently amended) A videophone as claimed in claim 31, wherein said information about the users includes selectably stored reminder information about one or more of the users ~~and~~, which information can automatically be transmitted to said user or users at a pre-determined time.

35. (currently amended) A videophone as claimed in claim 31, wherein said information about the users includes selectably stored information about the types of information one or more of the users is currently available to receive on the users' videophone.

36. (previously presented) A videophone as claimed in claim 35, wherein the types of information which the videophone can receive includes one or more of the following: chat, messaging service, information services, or IP telephone calls.

37. (currently amended) A videophone as claimed in claim 31, wherein said telephone directories include stored information for one or more of the following: speed dial numbers, videophone numbers, standard PSTN telephone numbers, video images of the users associated with the other videophone numbers, audio messages associated with the other PSTN telephone numbers and videophone numbers.

38. (currently amended) A videophone as claimed in claim 37, wherein said videophone further comprises means for selectably capturing during a video call and storing in said memory means, images of the users associated with a videophone number being called.

39. (currently amended) A videophone as claimed in claim 37, wherein said videophone further comprises means for selectably retrieving from memory means associated with the videophone being called and storing in said memory means associated with the calling videophone, stored images of the users associated with a videophone ~~number~~ being called.

40. (original) A videophone as claimed in claim 39 for which the images to be retrieved have been stored in memory means associated with the videophone being called.

41. (original) A videophone as claimed in claim 31, wherein said videophone further comprises means for selectably capturing and selectably storing in said memory means, images of the users associated with a second videophone calling said videophone, thereby providing video caller id functionality.

42. (original) A videophone as claimed in claim 31, wherein said videophone further comprises means for selectably retrieving and selectably storing in said memory means, images of the users associated with a second videophone calling said videophone, thereby providing video caller id functionality.

43. (currently amended) A videophone as claimed in claim 31, wherein said videophone further comprises means in the event a user does not answer the videophone, to selectably capture and selectably store in said memory means, real time, continuous video images of the users associated with a second videophone calling said videophone, thereby providing video answering machine functionality.

44. (currently amended) A videophone as claimed in claim ~~31~~43, wherein said videophone further comprises means in the event a user does not answer the videophone, to selectably retrieve ~~and selectably store in~~from said memory means, stored~~continuous~~ video images of the users associated with a second videophone calling said videophone, thereby providing video answering machine functionality.

45. (original) A videophone as claimed in claim 26 further comprising auxiliary input means for locally generated video images such as still pictures and full motion video and auxiliary input control means for selectably digitizing and transmitting such locally generated images in addition to or as an alternative to the signals received by said camera.

46. (previously presented) A videophone as claimed in claim 26 wherein said display is a rectangular screen that is taller than it is wide to optimize the displayed portrait images of videophone users.

47. (currently amended) A method for making a videophone call comprising: connecting at least two videophones to a communications network having sufficient bandwidth for and configured for transmitting both video and audio communications in real time, each of the videophones including a camera, display screen, telephone keypad, speaker, microphone, all of which are operatively connected, providing information uniquely identifying each of the videophone, selectably entering or selecting information with the videophone of the calling party corresponding to the uniquely identifying information of said videophone of the called party ~~with respect to any other systems or devices connected to said communications network,~~ placing a videophone call to the called party using information entered or selected by the calling party and the information uniquely identifying the videophone of the called party, verifying that the called party is in a database of parties capable of receiving a videophone call, and if so establishing direct transmission of audio and video communications between the videophones of the calling and the called parties over the communications network, digitizing the signals received by the camera of the calling party's videophone; for selectably transmitting such camera signals over the communication network, digitizing the signals received by the microphone of the calling party's videophone ~~and for selectably transmitting such microphone signals over the communication network in a manner that they are synchronized with the camera signals of the calling party's videophone, verifying that the called party is in a database of parties capable of receiving a videophone call,~~ digitizing the signals received by the camera of the called party's videophone;

for selectably transmitting such camera signals over the communication network, digitizing the signals received by the microphone of the called party's videophone ~~and~~ for selectably transmitting such microphone signals over ~~said~~the communication network in a manner that they are synchronized with the camera signals of the called party's videophone, receiving the digital signals transmitted by the videophone of the calling party over ~~said~~the communications network representing the images and sound transmitted by the videophone of the called party and ~~for~~ selectably displaying the signals representing the images on said display screen and selectably ~~for~~ playing the signals representing the sound on ~~said~~the speaker of the videophone of the called party as synchronized with the corresponding images, and receiving the digital signals transmitted by the videophone of the called party over ~~said~~the communications network representing the images and sound transmitted by the videophone of the calling party ~~and~~ for selectably displaying the signals representing the images on said display screen and ~~for~~ selectably playing the signals representing the sound on said speaker of the videophone of the calling party.

48. (original) The method of claim 47 further comprising processing the received signals to facilitate enhanced perception by a handicapped user.

49. (withdrawn) A videophone including at least a display screen, telephone keypad, and speaker, all of which are operatively connected, and further comprising: means for connecting said videophone to a communications network configured for transmitting video and audio communications, means for selectably receiving signals which can be transmitted over said communications network, which signals represent images and/or sound, and wherein said signals

are transmitted from a remote location accessible through the communications network, means for selectably accessing the remote location using information entered or selected by a user of said videophone device with said videophone device, and means for selectably displaying the signals representing any transmitted signals representing the images on said display screen, and for playing any transmitted signals representing the sounds on said speaker.

50. (withdrawn) A videophone as claimed in claim 49, further comprising remote memory means at the remote location, and wherein said remote memory means includes telephone directory information, whereby a user can use said means for placing a videophone call to connect to the remote memory means and selectably retrieve and display such telephone directory information.

51. (withdrawn) A videophone as claimed in claim 50 wherein said telephone directory information comprises stored database of traditional white page data.

52. (withdrawn) A videophone as claimed in claim 50 wherein said telephone directory information comprises stored database of traditional yellow page data.

53. (withdrawn) A videophone as claimed in claim 49, wherein said remote memory means includes supplemental information, and whereby a user can use said means for placing a videophone call to connect to the remotely stored memory means and selectably retrieve and display such supplemental information, and wherein such supplemental information includes one or more of the following types of information: scheduling information services such as, by way of example and not limitation, the services providing personal calendars, information services

information, such as, by way of example and not limitation, the services providing news, business, weather or sports information, educational services information, such as, by way of example and not limitation, the services providing customer support or automated training, or data services information, such as, by way of example and not limitation, the services providing flight information, medical information.

54. (withdrawn) A videophone as claimed in claim 53, further comprising supplementary information output means for selectably downloading said supplemental information to another device.

55. (withdrawn) A videophone as claimed in claim 49, wherein said means for selectably accessing a remote location further comprises means for programming the videophone to periodically access the remote location on an automatic basis, and wherein said means for selectably receiving signals from the remote location further comprised means for identifying the images and sounds that are desired to be received.

56. (withdrawn) A videophone as claimed in claim 55 wherein said means for selectably displaying the signals comprises means for displaying the identified images and sounds when the videophone is not being used for a call.

57. (withdrawn) A videophone as claimed in claim 55 wherein said means for selectably displaying the signals comprises means for displaying the identified images and sounds when the videophone is being used for a call and in a manner so as to not unduly obstruct and video or

audio information associated with the call.

58. (withdrawn) A videophone as claimed in claim 49, wherein said means for selectably accessing a remote location further comprises means for instructing the videophone to access a desired remote location, and wherein said means for selectably receiving signals from the remote location further comprised means for identifying the images and sounds that are desired to be received.

59. (withdrawn) A method for receiving and displaying information on personal videophone communications device, which device includes at least a display screen, telephone keypad, and speaker, all of which are operatively connected, comprising: connecting said videophone to a communications network configured for transmitting video and audio communications, selectably receiving digital signals being transmitted over said communications network representing the images and sound being transmitted, and for selectably displaying the transmitted signals representing any images on said display screen and for playing the transmitted signals representing any sounds on said speaker, wherein said signals have been stored in remotely located memory means capable of being accessed by said videophone through said communications network, and selectably accessing said remote memory means using information entered or selected by a user of the videophone device with said videophone device.

60. (withdrawn) A method for receiving and displaying information on personal videophone communications device as claimed in claim 59 further comprising including telephone directory information within the storage means, and selectably retrieving and displaying such telephone

directory information of the screen of the videophone communication device.

61. (withdrawn) A method for receiving and displaying information on personal videophone communications device as claimed in claim 59 further comprising including one or more of the following types of supplemental information within the storage means: scheduling information services such as, by way of example and not limitation, the services providing personal calendars, information services information, such as, by way of example and not limitation, the services providing news, business, weather or sports information, educational services information, such as, by way of example and not limitation, the services providing customer support or automated training, or data services information, such as, by way of example and not limitation, the services providing flight information, medical information, and selectably retrieving and displaying such supplemental information on the screen of the videophone communication device.

62. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system in which the operations center and a plurality of videophones are connected to a communications network by a plurality of communications media, said network and media being configured for transmitting video and audio communications, and in which said operations center being configured to communicate with said videophones via said communications network and communications media, said operations center comprising: storage means for storing information related to the users of said videophones, first processing means for receiving information requests from said video phones and for retrieving such information as is requested from said storage means and transmitting the requested information to the requesting videophone, second processing means for receiving

information from said videophones and for selectively storing the received information in said storage means.

63. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system as claimed in claim 62, further comprising third processing means selectively for requesting and retrieving information related to the communications media and communications network intended to connect two videophones during a call, and for determining the suitability of such media and network for such call.

64. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system as claimed in claim 63 further comprising means for alerting the party attempting to make a call of the suitability of such media and network for such call.

65. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system as claimed in claim 62, wherein said second processing means further comprises means for requesting and retrieving information from said videophones.

66. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system as claimed in claim 65 wherein said second processing means periodically requests directory information from said videophone and stores said directory information in said storage means.

67. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system as claimed in claim 65 wherein said second processing means periodically requests user setup information from said

videophone and stores said user setup information in said storage means.

68. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system as claimed in claim 62, wherein said second processing means further comprises means for accepting requests from said videophones to send information to the network operations center and to store information in said storage means.

69. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system as claimed in claim 68 wherein said second processing means periodically receives requests from said videophones to store directory information and stores said directory information in said storage means.

70. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system as claimed in claim 68 wherein said second processing means periodically receives requests from said videophone to store user setup information and stores said user setup information in said storage means.

71. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system as claimed in claim 62 wherein said first processing means requests and retrieves directory information from said storage means.

72. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system as claimed in claim 62 wherein said first processing means requests and retrieves user setup information from said storage means.

73. (withdrawn) A network operations center for a videophone system as claimed in claim 62, wherein said first processing means further comprises means for requesting and retrieving information from a first of said videophones with respect to information related to a second of said videophones, and wherein said first processing means requests and retrieves the request information from said second of said videophones.